RELATION

IN

Part of what paſſed through a true and faithful Servant and Handmaid of the Lord, *Mary Page*, when ſhe lay upon her bed of Sickneſs, as followeth. With an Exhortation to all Friends to wait, to dwell in the Croſs of Chriſt Jeſus, given forth by the ſame Spirit, though through another Veſſel.

Dear Friends, we cannot but communicate part of the inlargedneſs of ſpirit which remains upon us to our great refreſhing, which flowed forth in the eternal power, through the handmaid of the Lord *Mary Page*, Wife to *William Page* of *Wellingborough* in the County of *Northampton*, when ſhe lay upon her bed of ſickneſs at *Warwick*, where ſhe had been (and then was) a Priſoner, during the ſpace of one year, eleven moneths and upwards, for the Teſtimony of the Name of the Lord; which faithful Teſtimony ſhe had ſealed with her blood, to the joy of all that beheld her innocent paſſage in the power of the eternal God. Oh! *Dear Friends*, we can expreſs but little of what our eyes did ſee, and our ears did hear of the enlargedneſs of the pourings forth of the Spirit of the Lord through his Handmaid; who in great power exhorted all to be faithful in abiding in the Covenant of Light, and to be truly obedient in the meek, lowly, humble, and ſelf-denying Spirit of our Lord Jeſus, that in the pure love & Righteouſneſs of God all the dear Babes and Children of our Father might live in pure union with the Lord, and one with another, to bear a bold and faithful Teſtimony for the Lord, what ever become of the body, it would be well every way, both to the inward and outward man, and to the praiſe and glory of the Lord for ever. And many times when ſhe ended her Exhortation, ſhe poured forth her ſpirit in ſupplication to the Lord, with great fervency. *Oh! thou powerful God who is the ſearcher of all hearts, behold thy Handmaid, and if there be any thing that is not upright*

1665 110. f. 229.(12)

right before thee in the heart of thy Handmaid, make it known unto me thou searcher of Hearts, for thou knowest I delight to stand approved in thy sight in all my ways; for thou art my dear Father, and hast not failed thy Handmaid in what ever thou hast called me to unto this day; but thy Presence hath attended me and comforted me through every trial, and besetment, that the enemy of my Soul hath compassed me about withal. Oh! blessed God how hast thou kept and preserved me to thy self, and through the power of the Lord Jesus Christ hath made me to trample upon the enemy of my Souls peace: Therefore, in the name and power of the Lord Jesus Christ doth my Soul praise thee O my God for my preservation, in the power and authority of thy spirit, to bear my faithful Testimony for thee my God, all my days untill I have finished my course in thy will, Oh Lord my strength and life for ever and ever. And dear Father look upon thy poor oppressed ones that have no life, but in thee; Oh how do they cry in the sence of their misery; Lord help or we die: Oh! Lord thou knows their necessities, and their wants are not hid from thee, whose Righteousness without thee is as filthy rags; therefore do they cry unto thee, nothing will satisfie them but thy presence: Oh! powerful Father raise up thy own begotten in the power and authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, to reign over all its besetments, that the Mourner may rejoyce, and the bowed down head may be lifted up, and every hungry and thirsty Soul satisfied with the bread and water of Life, which thou freely handest forth by the hand of our Mediator *Christ Jesus our Lord; not for any thing that we have done or do, but for thy own name sake, that all flesh and boasting may be laid in the dust, and all Crowns cast down before thee, that thou alone may have all the glory, whose right it is over all faith my Soul, for ever and ever: and yet notwithstanding that all we have, or receive is in thy free mercy in Christ Jesus, yet this giveth not any liberty to sin: Oh! Lord thou knowest, but rather engageth us that are born again, to abhor our selves and to stand upon our watch diligently, that the enemy may not enter with any of his wiles to cause us to abuse thy Grace and free mercies, which thou hast so freely manifested to us in the name of the Lord Jesus, when we had not any power to help our selves: therefore doth my soul with the souls of thy dear and faithful Children cry unto thee to keep us pure in thy holy power, that in meekness and true sincerity of heart we may wait upon thee, and be obedient in what ever thou calls us unto, even to the loss of Husband, or Wife, or Children, or what ever else thou requirest, if it be to the laying down of the outward man for thy glorious Truth; it will be well every*

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way with all that have not any comfort or help but in thee, thou ever-living God, to whom be all Glory and Honour for ever. And holy glorious Father of life, bless and preserve all thy people that make mention of thy holy and eternal truth, here and here away, and all my fellow Prisoners, with all thy suffering members every where, and my dear Husband and Children, God bless and preserve them, and take care of them; Oh! my God do well for them every way, in keeping them faithful with my own soul unto the end of our days, whether they be few or many, thy will be done. Oh! thou holy eternal God keep thy dear Children from whence I came; Oh! Lord thou knows how dear they are to me, but I commit them wholly to thy care Oh my God; whom I know certainly will never fail them that are of an upright heart, and cannot be satisfied but with thy living eternal presence in the Lord Jesus, to whom I commit them all if I never see their faces in the outward any more; I know it will be well both with me and them, as we give up unto thee, to be ordered according to thy will, our little time we have here to be upon the Earth; to the glory and honour of thy great name, thou everlasting glorious Father of life, to whom alone it doth belong, saith my soul with the souls of all thy beloved and faithful Children and Servants that thou hast chosen to glorifie thee, who alone is God over all blessed for ever, and for evermore.

And when she had done, a Friend asked her how she did? She said, *I am weak, but I would go home.* What to thy Eternal home? She smiled and said, *yea, when it pleaseth my Heavenly Father.* Her tender and loving Husband being there with her drew near unto her, and she in much love stroked him on the face with her hand, when tears trickled down his cheeks; but after a little time put him from her; and Friends weeping by her, she said, *give me up freely into the armes of my Heavenly Father:* And she spoke no more but within a little time finished her course with joy, and laid down her body in peace near to the fourth hour in the morning the 17. day of the tenth Moneth, 1665.

We who were with her when she finished her days and are witnesses of what is here written, and of much more that passed through our dear Sister; we are much pressed in our Spirits that this might be sent amongst Friends that you might be comforted as we have been very largly in the time of her weakness in the body; yet God renewed his life (we may say) hourly in her, to her great refreshment, and also to all that came about her, and

to us who was much with her all the time she lay weak in body. Whose Names are under written,

Bridget Nichols.
Hanna Whitehead.
Anne Clabin
Elizabeth Nichols.

An Exhortation to all Friends to dwell in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

AND I in some measure being sensible of the sore travel and deep exercises that this Handmaid of the Lord passed through with joy and a willing mind to serve the Lord in all true obedience, what ever she endured outwardly; and she hath often said that would be enough to her; and I cannot but desire that I may wait upon the Lord to finish my days in the same faithfulness, dwelling continually in the pure self-denying life; and also exhort all who have in any measure tasted of the goodness and tender mercies of our God to wait to dwell in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, which will lead perfectly into the way of self-denial, where for ever as we dwell and walk, we shall lay down our heads in peace in the appointed season of our God, as his dear servant and faithful handmaid hath now done.

Oh! you dear and tender ones, wait ye diligently upon the Lord, that you may feel a true growth in the same life; for I know right well it was ever the desire of the soul of the Handmaid of the Lord, who is now gone to rest with him, that all might partake of the same comforts and true refreshings that she was comforted and refreshed with; yea, and much more abundantly it hath often been her cry unto the Lord in the earnest desire of her soul and spirit, that all the Children of the Lord might be filled with his blessed eternal Presence: But dear Babes it's known unto you all, as you wait diligently upon the Lord in the light of his Son, you will see that it's through great tribulation that the Kingdom is to be entred; therefore you dear ones, let the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ be willingly taken up unto all self and every selfish

ſelfiſh deſire: Oh! let not the cumbers of this World, nor the delights nor pleaſures thereof (I dearly beſeech you) hinder you of this bleſſed peace and large poſſeſſion which is laid up in Chriſt Jeſus our Lord, for all thoſe who is willing to deny themſelves, (mind that, we muſt deny our ſelves) and take up the Croſs unto every ſelfiſh action, word and thought, and take no liberty, becauſe the Lord is and hath been large in his loving kindneſs, and tender mercies unto us. Oh! let not the profeſſion or ſhew, or likeneſs ſatisfie any of us, for ſurely that will ſtand in no ſtead, when trials come and exerciſes are felt on every hand; Oh! then it's known unto you my dear and tender Friends that there is nothing can then ſtand but what is aſſuredly built upon the Rock of Ages; ſo in tender bowels of love I entreat and beſeech you let not *lukewarmneſs* be found in any of you, for that is loathſom to our God: Oh! wait, yea wait ye diligently upon the Lord; yea, *watch and pray continually leaſt at any time ye enter into temptation:* Oh! the danger that there is on every hand, and the by-paths that the enemy lieth ready to lead into continually; ſurely when I behold them, the ſight thereof makes me ready to tremble, leaſt I ſhould at any time be betrayed and drawn aſide from the Preſence of the pure God; and ſurely I know no other way to walk in ſafety, but in the daily Croſs of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, which will lead truly all that are willing to walk therein into the way of ſelf-denial, and then aſſuredly Friends as we are eſtabliſhed or wait upon the Lord to be eſtabliſhed therein, *nothing can harm us.* Oh! let the Croſs be as dear unto us now as ever, and let not the wiſdom of fleſh any ways hinder us, or any thing whatſoever prevent us for walking therein. Oh! let not any thing that hath been *done* by any of us, *ſuffered* or paſſed *through* in any exerciſe or trial whatſoever for the name of our Lord Jeſus and his bleſſed truth ſake, be accounted of any value by us, for ſurely if it be it will ſtop our paſſage and become a great hindrance of our entrance into the Land of reſt, ſo it's good for us all to preſs forward on our journey, leaving all behind as a thing of nought, that we may feel the incomes of Gods pure precious life daily, that thereby our ſtrength may be renewed in him day by day; for as the *Manna* in the days of old could ſerve the Children of *Iſrael* no more but for the day, no more will now the feeding of the eternal food yeſterday ſerve the true child for to day; therefore there is a

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great neceſſity for us to wait diligently upon the Lord to receive every day from his own hand, *of the bread which never faileth*, thoſe who are willing to wait upon the Lord to feed thereon; but truly the enemy lieth ſo exceeding near to draw forth the mind into one thing or other, that if we keep not diligently upon our watch, that the fear and dread of the Lord God may be truly placed in our hearts and be continually before our eyes. Oh! the looſeneſs of life yea and lightneſs of words and fooliſh actions, if liberty be taken that the enemy will draw into I can ſay it of a truth to the grief of my ſoul, but my dear and tender Friends, do but conſider a little, and in the cool of the day you will hear the true birth cry, and feel it ſorely grieved, becauſe of its great oppreſſion and great want, yea and becauſe its ready to be famiſhed with hunger, for ſurely there is not any thing that can ſatisfie the true child, but the ſtreams of the love of our God which runs freely unto it, except it be damm'd from it by our yielding to the enemy of our ſouls peace, for want of true watchfulneſs to the light of the Lord Jeſus, and not walking in the daily Croſs; but ſurely its the deſire of my ſoul that I may walk in the daily croſs of our Lord JeſusChriſt whilſt I am, and I know it was the true deſire of the ſoul of the ſervant of the Lord who is gone to reſt with him, that ſhe might all her days wait and walk therein, that ſhe might follow the Lord in the leadings of his pure pretious life, what ever became of her body, and as for her own ſoul (I can ſay of a truth) her deſires were really for all Gods dear and tender Children. Oh! you dear and tender ones the true breathings of my life is truly unto the Lord for you, as for my own ſoul likewiſe, whoſe breathing thirſtings, and true hungrings hath been after the Lord, that they might be continued, and that we might dwell together in the true poverty of our ſpirits, and then our wants will be known unto the all-ſeeing God, and he will relieve according to every neceſſity, and then ſhall we travel on our journey with chearfulneſs, ſubmitting to our God in all things, with joy and a willing mind, to bear forth our faithful teſtimony for him in what ever he calls unto, having our eye continually ſet towards him, and to know the eye to ſelf truly put out: Oh ſurely Friends this is the way to eternal reſt, and there's no other beſides it: So ye dear and tender babes wait ye diligently to walk therein, that the Lord our God may be glorified; ſurely this was

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the very end for which we were called and gathered out of the pollutions of the World, that we might ſerve our God in truth and ſingleneſs of heart, and not that we ſhould count the Croſs of Chriſt of no value, or that we ſhould return again to any manner of thing which we were gathered from, or take liberty to the fleſh, or the deſires or delights thereof, more then at the firſt, when our faces were turned toward our maker, but that the ſame dread and fear of the Lord ſhould be placed in our hearts, for aſſuredly the Croſs is the ſame, and the power is the ſame, and the Word is the ſame, which ſaith, *ſeek the Kingdom of God and the Righteouſneſs thereof, and all other things ſhall be added unto you.* Oh! you dear ones what need is here of having an eye to ſelf, ſurely we may be willing that that ſhould be put out, and that the Lord our God may be glorified in all that we do, and we his Children comforted, and in his dread and pure fear preſerved whil'ſt we have a being, and then aſſuredly ſhall we lay down our heads in peace (as our dear Friend and the true Handmaid of the Lord hath done) in the appointed ſeaſon of our God; ſo to the Croſs of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, where the deſire of my ſoul is to dwell I commit my ſelf and you all therein to walk, dwell and abide, wherein is our true ſafety, and our ſoul ſatisfying life poured forth abundantly, that when it is felt, we can ſay I know in the authority and ſtrength of the Almighty; O man where is thy ſtrength or power now, or what can it reach unto, ſurely here are we foulded up in the armes of our God, where none that ſeek to deſtroy can reach us, and as we dwell here, there's not any can touch a hair further then our God permits them; ſurely what ever comes to us here, it's but for the trial of our faith and patience, and then ſurely ſaith my Soul, *I will dwell with my Redeemer, I will not part from him, what ever the body ſuffers, I will follow the Lord in the Croſs of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, which will lead me truly to deny my ſelf, and then my God cannot deny his own as I wait ſingly upon him therein:* So the Lord God of Heaven and Earth keep me to watch unto him, and to wait in the true and naked ſimplicity of my heart upon him: and you dear ones; the ſame breathings unto the Lord my God is for you all, that in the power and bleſſed authority of his own life, we may for ever be bound up together in the unity of his bleſſed eternal ſpirit, to the Glory, Honour and Praiſe of the name of our God,

and

and to the exalting of his pure, eternal, bleſſed truth, ſaith the Soul and Spirit of your Friend, and a Brother to all that is born or waits to be born into the pure ſelf-denying life of our God.

Daniel Wills.

THE END.